

**REMARKS**

Reconsideration of the above identified application in view of the preceding amendments and following remarks is respectfully requested. First, the applicant and its attorneys wish to thank the Examiner for the indication of the allowable subject matter in original claims 2 to 7 and 9 to 14 and also for the allowance of claims 15 to 20.

Claim 2 has been rewritten as an independent claim and includes all of the subject matter of original claim 1. Accordingly, it is submitted that claim 2 and the claims dependent thereon are now in condition for allowance.

With respect to amended claim 1, it is respectfully submitted that this claim as amended is clearly and patentably distinguishable over cited U.S. Patent No. 5,660,670 to Sturtz.

With respect to the amendments to claim 1, claim 1 now makes it clear that the frameworks being moved by the apparatus are welded frameworks each having four corners. Support for this amendment can be found in the description as filed and in the drawings. For example, at the beginning of paragraph 36 of the description which refers to Figures 1 and 2, it is indicated that the welding machine 10 with which the present apparatus is used is a "four-point automated welding machine 10 capable of welding the four corners of two window frames or sashes 12 and 14 (described generally herein as frameworks)". Later in the same paragraph it is indicated that "each of the frames 12, 14 has four corners". The welding process for both the two left side corners and the two right side corners of the framework is also subsequently described.

Further, claim 1 has been amended to specify that the gripping devices are not only arranged one above the other but are "below said track during use of said apparatus". Embodiments of these gripping devices 35 are illustrated in Figure 6 wherein their position below the track 32 is clearly illustrated. The position of the gripping devices below the track is also shown in Figures 1 and 3. In original paragraph 39 of the description it was also indicated that these gripping devices were "positioned at the lower end of the respective arm 34".

Turning now to the reference cited by the Examiner, this reference teaches an apparatus for moving rectangular, welded frameworks from either of two welding machines to a transport devices such as a conveyor. Firstly, it should be noted that this known apparatus appears to be capable of only moving one welded framework from one welding machine at a time and there appears to be no provision for moving two frameworks at the same time from a welding machine. This known apparatus is mounted on two rails 8 which are arranged on the floor of the plant, as illustrated clearly in Figure 2. The rails 8 are not designed to be mounted at an elevated position, contrary to the requirement in claim 1 that the track be "adapted for mounting at an elevated position so as to extend substantially horizontally from said welding machine to said workstation". Mounted on the rails 8 of the known apparatus is a single carriage 7 on which is a single slide 9 supporting a vertical guide rail 11. The slide 9 permits movement of the guide rail 11 in a direction transverse to the two rails 8. Mounted on the single guide rail 11 are two gripping members 12 and 13 located one above the other and spaced apart from each other. These gripping members can be raised and lowered in order to manipulate the welded framework and move it to the transporter device 15. Each gripping member 12, 13 is equipped with its own gripping arm 14 which can be displaced by means of a piston-cylinder unit.

It will be seen from the above review of the teachings of the cited reference that claim 1, as amended, clearly distinguishes over this reference by reciting the following features:

- (1) A track adapted for mounting at an elevated position (In the reference, the two tracks 8 are located on the floor of the plant);
- (2) Gripping devices arranged below said track during use of the apparatus (In the reference, the two gripping members 12 and 13 are clearly mounted above the two tracks 8 on the guiderail 11 and they must be mounted in this position due to the location of the tracks);

- (3) Each gripping device must be adapted to releasably engage a respective one of the welded frameworks (In the reference, the two gripping members 12, 13 engage the same welded framework at the same time for movement to the transporter device 15 and they are not adapted so that each can move its own welded framework to the transporter device);
- (4) The arm assembly must be able to engage the frameworks when they are arranged one above the other in the welding machine and then move these frameworks to a second position (In the reference, the arm assembly with its gripping members is capable of only engaging a single welded framework at a time and then moving this single framework to the transport device).

In view of these several important differences, it is submitted that amended claim 1 does clearly and patentably distinguish over the teachings of U.S. Patent No. 5,660,670. Clearly, the apparatus claimed in claim 1 has advantages over the apparatus in the cited reference, including the important capability of being able to engage and move more than one welded framework at the same time from the welding machine, thereby speeding up the manufacturing process.

Turning now to independent claim 8, it is respectfully submitted that this claim recites several features not found in the cited reference, including the following:

- (1) Two parallel tracks adapted for mounting at an elevated position so as to extend substantially horizontally (As indicated, the tracks 8 in the reference are not elevated but are located on the floor);
- (2) Two arm assemblies, each mounted for movement along a respective one of said tracks and each having two gripping devices arranged one above the other (In the reference, there is only one arm assembly (11, 12, 13, 14) as identified by the

Examiner and this arm assembly moves along the two tracks, in other words, there is not a separate arm assembly mounted on each of the two tracks 8);

- (3) One gripping device of one arm assembly must be paired with and horizontally aligned with a respective one of the gripping devices of the other arm assembly (In the reference, there is only a single gripping member 12 and a single gripping member 13 and these are located one above the other and are not in horizontal alignment);
- (4) Each pair of gripping devices must be adapted to engage and grip one of the frameworks (In the reference, two gripping members 12, 13 are adapted to grip the same welded framework so that they are only capable of moving one framework at a time);
- (5) Two actuator arrangements for moving respectively said arm assemblies along said tracks (The carriage 7 and its movable slide 9 combine to move only a single arm assembly (11, 12, 13, 14) and not two arm assemblies.

Again, in view of these several important differences between the claimed apparatus of claim 8 and that taught in the cited reference, it is respectfully submitted that claim 8 does patentably distinguish over the teachings of this reference and is in condition for allowance.

With respect to the amendments to the description, the summary of the invention in paragraph 10 has simply been amended so that the wording thereof corresponds to amended claim 1. No new matter has been introduced into paragraph 10 for the same reasons as indicated above in connection with the amendments to claim 1. With respect to the amendment to paragraph 39, the added words "and below their respective track 32" constitute no new matter for the reasons already indicated. The location of the two gripping devices 35 below the track 32 is clearly shown in Figures 1 and 6 of the drawings.

It is respectfully submitted that all of the claims now remaining in this application are in condition for allowance and such action is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,



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